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LIVESTOCK AND MEATS  
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## INCREASE IN WORLD HOG

### SLAUGHTER CONTINUES

Hog slaughter in the 29 countries covered by this summary is expected to increase 8 percent in 1959 as the uptrend in hog production continues. An additional increase of 3 percent is forecast for 1960. At this level slaughter in 1960 should be one-fourth more than the 1951-55 average.

The increase in Western European slaughter, exceptionally large immediately following World War II, has continued, although at a reduced rate, in more recent years. In the past 2 years, production in Canada and the United States has climbed to very high levels.

Slaughter in 1960 is expected to rise in most countries. The total for North America is expected to be up 1 to 2 percent, and Western Europe, South America and Oceania up 3 percent each. Big increases are forecast for Japan. Further increases are also expected in the U.S.S.R. but slaughter in that country is not included in this summary.

The most significant changes in world hog slaughter in 1959 are the increases in the United States (10 million head or 12 percent) and Canada (2 million head or 32 percent), and decreases in West Germany (400,000 or 2 percent), the United Kingdom (300,000 head or 3 percent) and the virtual standstill in the Netherlands.

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This Circular contains more detailed information than the summary of the same title published in the monthly supplement of Foreign Crops and Markets of October 29, 1959.

During the first 9 months of 1959 U.S. exports of pork carcass meat products to all countries totaled 51 million pounds and were 34 percent greater than a year earlier. Exports of variety meats (largely pork) totaled 66 million pounds, an increase of 40 percent. Lard exports of 429 million pounds rose 53 percent.

In 1959 U.S. hog, pork and lard prices declined to the lowest levels since 1956. On the other hand, pork prices in European markets increased sharply from 1958 to 1959. This enabled North American exports of pork products to be more competitive in world markets. Canada and the United States found outlets for larger amounts of their surplus production in the United Kingdom, West Germany, the Netherlands, and some other European countries. The Netherlands, a principal world exporter of pork products, had an overall drop in exports.

U.S. marketings of pork in Western Europe would have been larger except for a number of trade barriers. Shipments to Italy are prohibited on the grounds of dollar shortage. Imports by Switzerland and Sweden are closely controlled in order to support domestic prices. West Germany permits entry of only very small amounts of carcass meat products from the United States, obtaining its needs largely from European producers. However, France and the United Kingdom have recently liberalized imports of some types of pork products. This year there has been a sharp rise in U.S. exports of pork to Cuba, the largest U.S. market. Exports to other Latin American markets have also increased; but here again they face a number of artificial barriers.

#### North America

North America's substantial hog slaughter increase in 1959 was accounted for by sharp rises in Canada and the United States.

The large kill in the United States was due primarily to an uptrend in the hog numbers cycle, accompanied by favorable prices and abundant feed in 1958. Slaughter in 1960 should rise 1 to 2 percent above 1959.

U.S. exports of pork and products (including lard) rose sharply during 1959, as a direct result of increased domestic hog slaughter. Preserved items made the largest increase. Hog slaughter is expected to continue to rise in 1960, and so are pork and lard exports. Most of these increases will be during the first half of the year.

Approximately half the U.S. pork and lard exports go to 11 Western European countries where hog slaughter has increased steadily from a little over 37 million head in 1951 to about 63 million in 1959. This trade is composed mainly of variety meat items and lard, but includes some cured products.

Principal markets for this European pork trade are West Germany--variety meats and cured items; France--variety meats; the Netherlands--variety meats and cured items; the United Kingdom--lard and casings.



Hogs: Total number slaughtered in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1957-58, indicated 1959, and forecast 1960

Continent and country	Average 1951-55	1957	1958	Indi- cated 1959	Fore- cast 1960	Percent change:	
						1959 of 1958	1960 of 1959
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Per- cent	Per- cent
North America:							
Canada 1/.....	5,527	5,401	6,459	8,555	7,970	+32	- 7
Mexico.....	2,266	1,100	3,100	3,100	3,300	0	+ 6
United States.....	79,807	79,024	77,339	87,000	89,000	+12	+ 2
Cuba.....	1,194	1,240	1,175	1,270	1,290	+ 8	+ 2
Total.....	88,794	88,765	88,073	99,925	101,560	+13	+ 2
South America:							
Argentina.....	1,893	2,700	2,450	2,200	2,100	-10	- 5
Brazil 1/.....	6,227	7,167	7,500	7,900	8,300	+ 5	+ 5
Colombia 1/.....	770	721	797	810	850	+ 2	+ 5
Uruguay.....	232	234	251	250	251	0	0
Total.....	9,122	10,822	10,998	11,160	11,501	+ 1	+ 3
Europe:							
Austria.....	2,348	2,826	2,957	3,000	3,200	+ 1	+ 7
Belgium.....	2,124	2,464	2,439	2,680	2,600	+10	- 3
Denmark.....	6,346	7,803	7,961	8,600	8,800	+ 8	+ 2
France 1/.....	6,161	8,426	8,452	8,620	8,285	+ 2	- 4
Germany, West 2/.....	14,441	18,536	19,600	19,185	19,600	- 2	+ 2
Ireland.....	1,092	1,256	1,474	1,275	1,300	-14	+ 2
Italy.....	3,857	4,419	4,495	4,425	4,560	- 2	+ 3
Netherlands.....	3,092	4,121	4,015	4,000	4,100	0	+ 3
Norway.....	486	665	620	650	700	+ 5	+ 8
Portugal 3/.....	430	498	613	550	600	-10	+11
Spain.....	2,080	2,670	2,950	3,100	3,000	+ 5	- 3
Sweden.....	2,363	2,864	3,159	3,184	3,153	+ 1	- 1
Switzerland.....	1,064	1,315	1,358	1,440	1,440	+ 6	0
United Kingdom 1/.....	7,829	10,014	11,012	10,720	10,870	- 3	+ 1
Yugoslavia 1/.....	4,470	3,940	4,776	5,600	6,800	+17	+21
Total.....	58,417	71,817	75,881	77,029	79,008	+ 2	+ 3
Africa:							
Union of South Africa 5/.....	902	986	990	916	870	- 7	- 5
Asia:							
China Taiwan 1/.....	1,508	1,983	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	---	---
Japan 1/.....	1,477	2,673	3,127	3,800	4,560	+22	+20
Philippines.....	(6/)	3,306	3,328	3,497	3,637	+ 5	+ 4
Total.....	5,325	7,962	8,575	9,567	10,627	+12	+11
Oceania:							
Australia.....	1,632	1,863	2,086	2,000	2,100	- 4	+ 5
New Zealand 7/.....	734	750	760	870	850	+14	- 2
Total.....	2,366	2,613	2,846	2,870	2,950	+ 1	+ 3
Total specified countries..	164,926	182,965	187,363	201,467	206,516	+ 8	+ 3

1/ Commercial slaughter only. 2/ Slaughter from domestic sources only. Includes West Berlin.  
3/ Inspected slaughter only. 4/ Four-year average. 5/ Fiscal year. 6/ Estimates for years  
not shown included in totals. 7/ Year ending September 30.

Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of United States Agricultural Attaches and other representatives abroad, results of office research and related information. Foreign Agricultural Service, October 1959.

Most pork carcass meat exports go to Central and South America. Principal customers are Cuba--cured items (also a leading lard customer); Mexico--fresh and frozen pork; and Venezuela--cured items.

Canada's hog slaughter increased sharply, due mainly to continued abundant feed and high price supports. Supports were lowered somewhat in October 1959 and this action, plus the awareness of the discontinuation of support payments to contract feeders in January 1960, should curtail the expansion in hog breeding. The Canadian Government has recently changed its hog grade standards to stimulate further the production of lighter weight, leaner hogs, and it continues to pay a premium on these types.

Mexican hog slaughter did not increase in 1959 and fell behind rising demand. Thus, Mexico continued as a large customer for U.S. pork and lard. However, it expects to increase slaughter in 1960.

Cuba increased its slaughter in 1959 and a further slight increase for 1960 is expected. However, slaughter still fails to meet the increasing domestic demand for pork products. Cuba was an expanding market for U.S. lard and pork in 1959.

Increased consumption of vegetable oils has kept Cuba and Mexico from becoming still larger markets for U.S. lard.

#### South America

The expected drop in Argentine slaughter developed in 1959, and is expected to continue through 1960. Brazilian slaughter, which has been climbing for a number of years, rose 5 percent in 1959 and should continue to rise at about the same rate in 1960. Improved breeding and feeding practices are increasing yields of pork and fat. Lard output should increase substantially, as high prices for both lard and pork encourage producers to hold hogs for market at heavy weights. Only commercial slaughter is reported for Brazil, and this is a small part of the total. Price encouragement and improved transportation would stimulate commercial slaughter, which produces much more marketable lard than farm slaughter. With the world's fourth largest hog numbers, Brazil could become a large surplus lard producer.

#### Europe

Western European hog slaughter leveled off in 1959 and little change is expected for 1960.

West German pork and lard prices were low in 1958 and hog production and slaughter consequently fell during 1959. To counter soaring prices, West Germany substantially increased imports of live hogs and pork products in 1959. Slaughter in 1960 is expected to return to the 1958 level.

The Agriculture and Livestock Board of the Netherlands has been discouraging hog production to maintain favorable producer prices. However consumer organizations have been pressuring against this policy, and slaughter, which fell slightly in 1959, is expected to increase a little in 1960.

In the United Kingdom hog slaughter dropped 3 percent in 1959, encouraging larger imports. However, imports of pork variety meats and lard increased while other pork imports dropped because traditional sources could not meet competitive prices. The U.S. share of the U.K. lard market increased substantially in 1959 as U.S. prices became more competitive. The beginning of bulk liquid lard shipments through the St. Lawrence Seaway contributed to the gain. U.K. slaughter is expected to rise slightly in 1960, especially late in the year, but increased U.K. imports of pork and lard are still expected.

Hog slaughter in Denmark rose 8 percent in 1959 and a slight additional rise is expected in 1960. Denmark continues as the world's leading exporter of pork products. Increased exports of live hogs to West Germany have strengthened hog prices, sharply increasing the number of bred sows in 1959 over 1958. The heaviest slaughter is expected during the last quarter of 1959 and the first quarter of 1960. Recent gains in bacon exports to the United Kingdom have also stimulated hog slaughter, somewhat offsetting reduced pork exports to France and Italy. Still another stimulus is the planned U.K. reduction of import duties on Danish bacon and canned pork luncheon meat in July 1960.

French hog slaughter rose 2 percent in 1959, much of it due to drought-forced marketings. This has lowered prices and is expected to be a principal factor causing reduced slaughter in 1960.

Spain increased its hog kill 5 percent to over 3 million head in 1959. About one-third of this is commercial production. Due to the present depressed hog market, slaughter is expected to decline slightly in 1960.

Austrian slaughter remained stable in 1959 but demand increased and the shortage of pork supplies caused high prices. Public pressures to reduce these prices has caused a search for imports. This situation indicates a 7 percent increase in 1960 slaughter.

Belgian slaughter rose 10 percent in 1959 but is expected to drop slightly during 1960.

Italian hog slaughter in 1959 continued its downward trend of recent years. However, the government is now stepping up emphasis on development of their livestock industry and slaughter is expected to rise in 1960.



Sweden's hog slaughter increased slightly in 1959 in response to increased demand on both the domestic and export markets. However, a slight drop is expected in 1960 as an increase in live hog exports is likely.

Ireland's hog slaughter in 1959 dropped sharply from the unusually heavy kill of 1958 and should level off in 1960.

There has been no cyclical pattern of hog slaughter in Europe as a whole since 1950. However, the United Kingdom has shown a cyclical pattern which has generally reached a high point when the U.S. cycle was at a low point. West Germany has shown a similar cyclical pattern in hog numbers but not in hog slaughter. This is due to considerable trade in live hogs among the Continental European countries that has smoothed out the slaughter pattern.

#### Eastern Europe

Yugoslavia, a leading pork producer in Eastern Europe, sharply increased its hog slaughter in 1959 and is expected to do so again in 1960. The government is encouraging livestock production and several new meat packing plants have been built principally to produce canned hams and other canned pork items for export. An expected record corn crop in 1959 also contributes to the likelihood of sharp increases.

In other Eastern European countries, there have been several indications of pork shortages which may continue through much of 1960. Pork exports have decreased from last year.

#### Asia

A prime factor in reduced 1959 hog slaughter in Asia is the reduction in Communist China, which has the world's largest hog numbers. The Chinese Communists have not been able to fill all of their orders for pork exports to nearby Asian markets.

Some Asian countries are making rapid strides in the hog industry. Japan's meat consumption has been rising rapidly in the last few years in line with increased consumption of pork. Wholesale pork prices have risen sharply in recent months due to the short supply. Hog slaughter rose 22 percent in 1959 and is expected to rise about 20 percent in 1960.

Philippine slaughter continues to rise steadily.

#### Oceania

Australian hog slaughter dropped 4 percent in 1959 but current favorable pork prices and sufficient feed supplies indicates the 1960 slaughter will return to 1958 levels.

New Zealand slaughter increased sharply in 1959 but is expected to fall slightly from this level in 1960.





